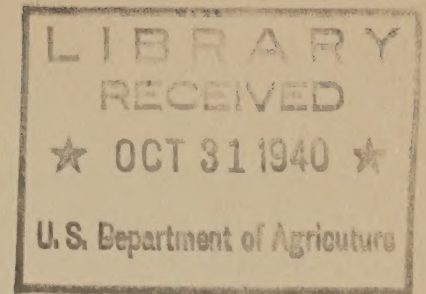


Region IX
California
Arizona
Utah
Nevada

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
85 Second Street
San Francisco, California



THE MEANING OF REHABILITATION

Statement made by Ralph W. Hollenberg, Assistant Regional Director,
Farm Security Administration - Staff Meeting - March 21, 1940

The business of the Farm Security Administration is the business of rehabilitating families. This business of rehabilitation is divided between two divisions of the Administration (the Rural Rehabilitation and the Resettlement divisions); there are two endeavors in obtaining rehabilitation for needy farm families.

I would like first to define what rehabilitation means to our field staff. This definition came from the field itself. It is the definition of what we are trying to do, what the objective of rehabilitation is, what it is that will have happened when rehabilitation has been accomplished by any part of this Administration. Rehabilitation will be accomplished when these four things are done:

1. When an adequate standard of living has been established for the family. We mean by adequate, at least adequate food, clothing and shelter. It is not a set level. It will vary from community to community, from state to state; it won't be the same thing one place as another. But at least it means parity for the family in whatever community they live.
2. When the family has paid off the loan that was made for the purpose of obtaining rehabilitation.
3. When the family has obtained the facilities and ability with which to refinance itself, if necessary.
4. When - most important - the family has obtained the self-sufficient ability to maintain at least the standard of living established, and to make whatever future progress is required by its own mental and physical growth.

This is what we are aiming at when we speak of rehabilitation. These are the ideas we have developed in Region IX. We made this definition and I think it is an adequate one. It is our own. We can be proud of it and we ought to be proud of it.

This rehabilitation is of two main types carried on by two divisions, for two different types of families.

I

The first type is rehabilitation in place. It consists in rehabilitation for those families who have a piece of land, whether they own it or lease it. This part of rehabilitation is carried on by the RURAL REHABILITATION DIVISION. The Division has various techniques for carrying out its objectives, but the kernel of it all is the Farm and Home Plan. It is on the basis of Farm and Home planning that we do something to obtain rehabilitation of the family on the land. We take it that when families come to us for a loan they need something besides money. We do lend money, but that is not the chief thing we have to offer to those who come to us for rehabilitation. We take into consideration the human assets of the family and the assets on the farm. The Farm and Home Plan is worked out to make the operation a better one, or to stabilize the operation that is carried on. Several things may be done to put the Plan into operation. The instruments we use regularly are:

1. Farm Debt Adjustment - often used first of all to establish the foundations for rehabilitation, because in many cases it is essential to have a reorganized debt structure before a Farm and Home Plan can be worked out or set in operation.
2. Standard Loans - used to buy operator goods and equipment that are necessary for rehabilitation.
3. Cooperative Service and Water Facilities loans - these loans are often used as a part of farm planning in setting about to rehabilitate farm families on the land. In some counties in Region IX we help families to buy land with Tenant Purchase loans or a combination of the TP loan with other loans.
4. Grants - used when necessary and when advisable because they will assist and lead to ultimate family stabilization under a Farm and Home Plan, and to rehabilitation.

Everything that is done for the rehabilitation of families who have land is done on the basis of adequate planning, whether it be through Farm Debt Adjustment, Standard Loans, Cooperative Loans, Water Facilities Loans, Tenant Purchase Loans or Grants; and, of course, this planning always includes intelligent diversification of crops to insure what experience has shown to be the best security small farmers can obtain.

That is a brief outline of what we are doing in using techniques, and of things that go into these techniques, in assisting families on the land.

II

On the other side of it, we are in a program to bring about rehabilitation for families not on land and not having land. Under our RESETTLEMENT DIVISION we have a three point program begun in 1934-35 when the first two migratory labor camps, one at Marysville and another at Arvin, were started and later taken over by the Resettlement Administration and Farm Security Administration.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON
FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME
BY
JOHN H. COLEMAN
OF THE CITY OF BOSTON
IN TWO VOLUMES
VOL. I.
BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY
J. B. LEECH, 15 N. MARKET ST.
1845.

This program starts with the migrant farm worker, making provision for his relief. It continues with the "graduated" migrant who has become a stabilized farm worker, with opportunities for him in that status; and finally it provides means for the stabilized farm worker to return to the land.

1. The Migrant Farm Worker

- a) Migratory Labor Camps provide clean, sanitary conditions for living, and by removing migrant families from ditch banks and roadsides bring back some of the family prestige they had before. The camp program, while it does nothing for economic rehabilitation, restores the moral and mental elements of rehabilitation for the families, or at least provides the preparation for the process of rehabilitation. And thus rehabilitation can be accomplished by our supervisory personnel, if they are aware of the problem and cognizant of its possibility of solution through sympathetic treatment of human values. Education and training of various kinds, including hand craft and some help for the women in home management, will tend to prepare them for rehabilitation.
- b) We have the Grant Program in order to feed these people when they are hungry. We can not let them starve. We cannot rehabilitate families who have died of starvation or who are suffering from starvation.
- c) We have the Agricultural Workers' Health and Medical Association in order to take care of the health of the families. Thus we provide physical parity for them, essential for eventual rehabilitation.

Both the Grant Program and the Agricultural Workers' Health and Medical Association provide adequate diets for children, and aid the breadwinners so that they can go out and get work when it is available and make progress toward rehabilitation.

I want to refer to the status of the people in the camp, grant and medical program. There are many people in the state who say that this group are entirely a burden on the community, the state, and the federal government. That is not a fact. It can be disproved by simple figures. Dr. Paul Taylor, Professor of Economics at the University of California, said recently that the average income of these families is about \$500 a year. Perhaps that is a little too high, so we will take only \$400 a year. What does this mean? We have somewhere around fifty thousand families. Multiply \$400 by 50,000 and you get \$20,000,000 a year. If you want to add to that the two million dollars that we have been giving in cash grants, commodities and medical care, you have twenty-two million dollars a year, and it all goes back to the business men in the communities where these people live because they spend every dime of it. And the \$400 that they earn, they really earn, because the labor they sell is used in the production of the agricultural wealth of the state.

They are putting into circulation, into the oil companies, into the hands of the merchants, the doctors, etc., twenty-two million dollars a year in the State of California where they have sometimes been called a burden on the State. They have asset value to the community.

Some of these families as they migrate throughout the state from camp to camp, finally settle down in one community. In effect they say, "Well, I have been migrating, but I am sure I can find enough work around Marysville to do at least as well as I have been doing, and I like Marysville. I would like to settle down." So we have built low-rent labor homes, our point number two in the Resettlement Division program.

2. The Stabilized Farm Worker

- a) Labor Homes These homes each have a piece of land attached where the family can plant a small garden and fill some of the family's subsistence needs. This enables the family to save more cash money toward progress to something better, because all of them earn some money on the outside.

This is the first step toward the economic rehabilitation of the family. A rental of \$8.20 a month which includes the rent of the house and the utilities has been established for the labor homes. Gardens have been planted and used, and some of our objectives have already been reached through the use of labor homes.

- b) Part-Time Farms In connection with Labor Homes, we have in some places established Part-Time Farms. They are intended to do three things for residents of the Labor Homes.

- 1) Commodities which they raise on the farm for their own use are cheaper than they can buy them on the outside. Principal products are milk and dairy products, and other produce that can not be raised on the small garden plots.
- 2) The wages for part-time work on these farms we hope will enable payment of rent for the houses rented from the government in order that they may save more money to climb another step of the ladder toward rehabilitation.
- 3) Training in agriculture is essential to these people. In the communities where many of them originally farmed, the type of agriculture is so different that, it is reported, many of them do not have sufficient knowledge of California agriculture to be even good laborers. They must be educated in California agriculture. One reason for Part-Time Farms is to educate them in this regard.

Some of these people may save enough money and have the desire to graduate beyond the labor homes, thus:

3. The Farm Worker Stabilized and Back on the Land

Two avenues are open to the migrants to go further ahead in our program:

- a) Rehabilitation Loans A rehabilitation loan may be obtained to equip a small farm which they may operate themselves, or a combination of a Tenant Purchase loan and a Rehabilitation loan may be provided so that they may go back to individual farming on the land again.

(I am frank to say that this may not be in accordance with the trend in agriculture and may not be the final answer, but it will be offered by this Administration as long as we are giving aid to low-income farmers. I am just not sure what is the trend in agriculture. However, no matter what the trend is, these loans are a hope that we may give to the people not now on the land.)

- b) Cooperative Farms They may have the chance to live on farms like Casa Grande and Mineral King; that is, community farms where the new mechanized, large-scale or corporate pattern of agriculture is accepted but changed enough so that the benefits may be passed on to the group of people who work the farm, instead of to a single individual. From our point of view, these are simply demonstrations of one thing that may be done, eventually to rehabilitate these farmers now without land. Under this plan it would be possible for these disinherited farm families to have proprietary interest in farming which they are otherwise denied.

If the trend in agriculture is toward large scale farming, whether we like it or not, we ought to be doing something about it, and that something may need to include an acceptance of the patterns, but with sufficient adaptation to meet the human and material needs of all of these people. We are interested that these people who have been disinherited, may have another chance again to become a stable part of the community. We feel sure that we have been able to show that, even if the trend is toward large scale farming, we can use even that trend to help people who are now the victims of the trend.

If we are going to be successful in this program of ours, we must know what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what our objectives are; and we must keep these objectives in mind if we are to be successful in the things this Administration is set up to do.
